

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION
AT SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 MEETING**

Dear Superintendent Bernthal,

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) supports the establishment of a Maritime National Heritage Area in Washington State and encourages OCNMS and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), along with NOAA, to partner with this important state and regional effort.

The Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) efforts to establish National Maritime Heritage Area, which would include the waters of OCNMS, has received national attention. The potential benefit to the Olympic Coast is significant. The establishment of such an area would greatly complement OCNMS's goal to "enhance understanding and appreciation of the Olympic Coast's maritime heritage (living cultures, traditions, and cultural resources)". The aspect of tourism generation aligns with recent recommendations from the OCNMS Advisory Council's Tourism Working Group (TWG), presented to and adopted by the council at its May 2014 meeting. Specifically, prioritized TWG recommendations included sponsoring events that attract tourism, which could result from the designation of a Maritime National Heritage Area.

Some of the purposes of this proposed heritage area include encouraging partnerships among maritime interests for the purpose of economic development and heritage tourism; to recognize and interpret the impact of nationally important maritime landscape on Native American and European-American heritage; to promote heritage, cultural, and recreational tourism, and to develop educational, interpretive, recreational, and cultural programs through partnerships for the benefit of visitors and general public.